

HEALTH
16 FEB 55

1954

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1954



P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Together with the Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1954.

Area (in acres)	3,777
Population 1921 (census)	13,511
„ 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,247
„ 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,540
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1921 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,076
„ „ „ „ „ 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,827
„ „ „ „ „ 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,673
Rateable Value, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£95,432
Product of a penny rate, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£370

Live Births.

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	213	113	100	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	16	5	11	
					229	118	111	13.84

Stillbirths.

Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					3	2	1	0.18

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	...	187	101	86	11.30

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4.31

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births :

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	6	3	3	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	
Total	...	...	...	...	7	4	3	30.56

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil.



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Rushden Urban District Council.

Members of the Health and Sanitary Committee :

COUNCILLOR J. ALLEN (*Chairman*), COUNCILLORS A. H. BAILEY, C. FREEMAN, A. GREEN, R. R. GRIFFITHS, W. BROWN, MRS. G. MARRIOTT, MRS. A. U. MUXLOW, H. WARING.

COUNCILLOR E. A. SUGARS, J.P., Chairman of the Council, was an *ex-officio member*.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health,

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District.

School Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS J. PEARSON.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector :

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

B. HALL, M.S.I.A., Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Public Health Department,
Swanspool,
Wellingborough.

July, 1955.

To The Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Rushden.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my seventh Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the area for the year 1954.

The vital statistics for the year were not as satisfactory as in recent years. The birth rate, 13.84, was very similar to the previous year, 13.92, the number of births was actually the same, but the difference in the rate is due to the population figure being increased. The death rate, 11.30, showed an increase on the previous year when it was 9.51 per 1,000 of population. One death was recorded under the heading of maternal mortality, which gives a rate of 4.31 per 1,000 live and stillbirths. This is the first maternal death recorded in six years. The infant mortality rate, 30.56 compared with 8.73 per 1,000 live births showed a considerable rise. This is the highest rate recorded since 1950 when it was 44.05. Variations in the rate are more pronounced when dealing with a community of certain sizes and a better picture may be gathered by perusing the rate over a number of years. Table No. 4, page 31 gives this information. It is interesting to note that the number of stillbirths showed a considerable fall compared with the previous year and that the majority of infant deaths occurred within a very short time of birth. A comparison between the vital statistics for Rushden and England and Wales will be found throughout the report.

Section B gives details of health services available in the area and shows no change from the previous year. Rushden is fortunate in having the Hayway Hospital in its area and it is interesting to note the variety of clinics held there each month.

In Section C a brief account is given of the sewage works and the method of sewage disposal adopted. Proposals for enlarging the works in order to deal with the extra demands occasioned by the development of the town over the years, have been submitted to the Ministry. It is satisfactory to note that the scheme to deal with sewage from the Court Estate has commenced. It is unsatisfactory to have any areas in the vicinity of a town with no public sewers or public water supply available.

An account of the housing programme is given in Section D. Slum clearance is a subject which will figure largely in the work of local authorities over the course of the next five years. Unfit houses constitute

a potential danger to the health of the occupants and in their interests should be cleared.

The next Section, E, deals with the inspection and supervision of food. During the year the Slaughterhouse Act came into operation. Since restriction on slaughtering was introduced by the Livestock Order, 1940, all slaughtering was carried out for the area at the Bedford Road Abattoir. Now private slaughterhouses, if suitable, can operate. The supervision of slaughterhouses and meat inspection, is very important. From the list of causes given by the Senior Sanitary Inspector for meat condemned during the year, some idea of the importance of meat inspection will be gained. It will also be realised that a 100% meat inspection service is required. This has always been carried out in Rushden and continues so. It is to be hoped that the same service exists in the areas of all other local authorities in the country.

Section F is concerned with the prevalence and control of infectious diseases. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever showed a slight increase, 16, compared with 13 in the previous year. Measles showed a great fall, two cases being notified compared with 187 in 1953. Whooping Cough was considerably up on the previous year's figures, 33 cases compared with only one in the previous year. The number of cases of Dysentery fell from 15 in 1953 to one case in 1954. No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred for the second year. The number of cases of Tuberculosis showed an increase, 18 new cases compared with 12 in the previous year. Only one death was recorded from this disease and this is the lowest figure recorded over the last fourteen years. The vaccination figures were disappointing. Primary vaccination showed a fall on the previous year. Every effort should be made to encourage parents to have their children vaccinated.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Surveyor, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Department for information supplied for this report. Also to thank Mr. Ellis for his assistance throughout the year. I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the year, and finally wish to thank Miss Pearson for her assistance in compiling this report.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area. The boundaries of the Urban District of Rushden remain unchanged and cover an area of 3,777 acres.

Population. The Registrar General estimated the resident mid-year population for 1954 to have been 16,540 persons as compared with 16,390 for 1953. This shows an increase of 150. Births outnumbered deaths by 42 during the period.

Deaths. 187 deaths occurred during the year. This gives a death rate of 11.30 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 9.51 for 1953. The rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 11.3 per 1,000 of population. Table No. 1, page 28 gives a classification of the causes of death and is in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948. Table No. 2, page 29 gives further statistics concerning deaths from selected causes. The following table shows a comparison between the death rates for England and Wales, the Administrative County, and Rushden, for the period 1947 to 1954 :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rushden</i>				<i>County England & Wales</i>	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe- male</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>
1947	200	103	97	12.95	12.43	12.00
1948	184	95	89	11.27	11.00	10.80
1949	221	112	109	13.46	12.07	11.70
1950	222	108	114	13.48	12.01	11.60
1951	218	120	98	13.44	12.13	12.50
1952	204	97	98	12.55	11.04	11.3
1953	156	80	76	9.51	11.51	11.4
1954	187	101	86	11.30	*	11.3

Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System caused 58% of the total deaths ; Diseases of the Respiratory System 10.16% ; Cancer 15.50% ; and Tuberculosis (all forms) 0.53%.

Births. 229 births were registered during the year, which is the same number as that for 1953. The rate per 1,000 of the population for 1954 was 13.84 compared with 13.97 for 1953. This slight variation in the rate is accounted for by the increase in the population. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 15.2. A comparison between the birth rates for England and Wales, Administrative County and Rushden, for the period 1950 to 1954 is given in the following table :

Birth Rate, 1950-1954.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Rushden	13·79	12·26	12·30	13·97	13·84
Administrative County	15·71	15·57	15·5	16·16	*
England and Wales	15·8	15·5	15·3	15·5	15·2

Stillbirths. Three stillbirths occurred, which gives a rate of 0.18 per 1,000 population. Last year there were ten stillbirths. The rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 0.36 per 1,000 of population. The rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 12.93 as compared with 24.0 for England and Wales. Table No. 5, page 32 gives the rates for stillbirths, illegitimate births and masculinity of birth for the period 1934 to 1954.

Illegitimate Births. Sixteen illegitimate births were recorded during the year giving a rate of 69.86 per 1,000 live births, which is the highest rate since 1945. Last year there were ten illegitimate births.

Maternal Mortality. One death was recorded, which gives a rate of 4.31 per 1,000 live and stillbirths. This is the first death recorded under this heading since 1947.

Infant Mortality. Seven infant deaths were recorded compared with two in the previous year. This gives a rate of 30.56 per 1,000 live births compared with 8.73 for 1953. The rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 25.5. Further statistics will be found in Table No. 4, page 31.

The following table shows a comparison between the rates for England and Wales, the Administrative County and Rushden for the five year period, 1950-1954 :

Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Rushden ...	44·05(10)	5·02(1)	5·00(1)	8·73(2)	30·56(7)
Administrative County ...	29·53	25·26	24·96	24·70	*
England and Wales ...	29·8	29·6	27·6	26·8	25·5

Neonatal Mortality. This sub-division of the infant mortality rate includes all infants who died within twenty-eight days of independent existence. Six of the seven infant deaths occurred in this period which gives a rate of 26.20 per 1,000 live births. Last year there were two deaths under this heading giving a rate of 8.73.

The following table gives the deaths under one month over a period of five years :

Deaths under one month per 1,000 live births.						
		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Rushden	....	26·43(6)	5·02(1)	5·00(1)	8·73(2)	26·20(6)

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Services. Laboratory facilities in connection with infectious diseases, etc., for the area, are available at the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton and Kettering. Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are also examined at the Northampton Laboratory. The assistance and co-operation of Dr. Hoyle and Dr. Voss was much appreciated during the year.

Diphtheria Antitoxin. No request for antitoxin has been received for a considerable period. The Oxford Regional Hospital Board is responsible for this supply and stocks are kept at the following places :

Wellingborough Hospital
Rushden House Sanatorium
Northampton General Hospital
Kettering General Hospital

Ambulance Service. The County Council are responsible for this service. The area is served by arrangement with the Rushden District Ambulance Association. Three ambulances serve the area. A section of the Northampton St. John Ambulance Brigade acting for the County Council and attached to the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton, deal with cases of infectious diseases requiring removal to hospital.

Nursing in the Home and Home Helps. These services are provided by the County Council and details of the work carried out during the year will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health. The Home Help service is a very valuable one but great difficulty is found in finding persons to do this work, particularly when female labour is in such great demand, and much higher wages are offered in industry. The home help, like the nurse, offers her services through a sense of vocation, and not with the thought of material reward. Unless we can encourage more women in this field of work, more and more persons will have to enter hospitals and homes. Particularly is the Home Help Service important in the case of young mothers and old folk when a crisis occurs in the home, to tide them over the period of illness which, without help, may mean their removal to hospital.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. These are held at the Wesleyan Church Rooms, Queen Street. An Infant Welfare Centre is held on

Wednesday afternoons and Antenatal and Postnatal Clinics are held on Tuesday mornings.

Hospitals. The Oxford Regional Hospital Board covers the area and hospital accommodation is as follows :

GENERAL HOSPITALS—Northampton and Kettering.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton.

TUBERCULOSIS—Rushden House Sanatorium.

The Hayway Hospital, Rushden, supplies facilities for out-patient departments and consultants from Northampton and Kettering attend this hospital. Clinics held here are as follows :

Gynaecological	...	1st and 3rd Monday morning
		2nd and 4th Tuesday morning
Medical	...	1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Monday afternoon
Surgical	...	1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoon
		2nd, 4th and 5th Friday morning
E.N.T.	...	2nd and 4th Wednesday morning
		1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday afternoon
Eyes	...	1st and 3rd Thursday morning
Orthoptist	...	Every Thursday morning and afternoon
Urological	...	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon
Physiotherapy	...	Monday afternoons
Psychiatric	...	Every Friday afternoon
Skin	...	2nd and 4th Saturday morning
Paediatric	...	Wednesday mornings

The Park Hospital, Wellingborough, has a Maternity wing and also provides accommodation for the aged chronic sick and old persons in need of care and attention. These latter are also accommodated at Oundle and St. Mary's Hospital, Kettering.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Persons in need of care and attention. One case was dealt with during the year. The case was removed to the Park Hospital and settled down satisfactorily. An old folks' bungalow was provided by the Council later and case is happily installed. This was an instance where if the person had been allowed to remain at her unfit premises, under the particular weather conditions it was almost certain she would have died.

A Senior Citizens' Welfare Committee was set up during the period in the interest of the old folk of the area. This committee should do much good work in the future.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply. The Higham Ferrers and Rushden Joint Water Board are responsible for the supply for the area.

Sources. Sywell reservoir fed by springs and the surrounding catchment area, and wells sunk in the river gravels at Hardwater Crossing, Wollaston, are the two sources of supply. Method of treatment at Sywell is by means of filtration through three slow sand filters followed by chlorination.

At Wollaston water is filtered through mechanical filters and then chlorinated. Water from this source is hard and a softening plant is installed at these works.

The area supplied by the Board is considerable and trade demands are big. Extra sources of supply are desirable and the Board are exploring the possibility of using water from the lake at Ditchford. Further gravel wells in the Hardwater Crossing area should be available as the Nene Valley is rich in these wells.

Quality of Water. A chemical analysis of a sample of water was made during the year. The sample was taken at Rushden Newton Road Depot on the 29th March, 1954, and gave the following result :

Physical characters	...	...	...	...	...	Good
Reaction	...	...	...	...	...	PH 7.2

The sample contained :						<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	3.1
Ammonia (free and saline)	...	...	...	...	...	0.0010
Ammonia (Albuminoid)	...	...	...	...	...	0.0110
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C	...	...	...	...	...	0.1004
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	...	0.05
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Poisonous metals	...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Calcium	...	...	...	...	...	9.9
Magnesium	...	...	...	...	...	1.2
Alkalinity	...	...	...	...	...	18.8
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	25.5
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	12.9
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	12.6

Bacteriological Examination. Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.
 Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 37°C—Nil.
 Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 21°C—1.

Remarks. The results obtained on the analysis of this sample indicate a fairly hard water, slightly contaminated with organic matter though practically free from bacterial contamination. This water as evidenced by the sample is safe for drinking purposes.

Bacteriological examination of samples of water. The Board took 57 samples of water for bacteriological examination in the Rushden area during the year. The results of these samples were as follows :

<i>Very Satisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
55	1	—	1

Results of samples taken at source were :

	<i>Very Satisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Sywell Works	13	—	—	1 (R)
Wollaston Works	28	3	—	1
Earls Barton Works	8	—	—	—

Results of samples taken by the Health Department in Rushden were :

<i>Very Satisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
20	—	—	1

From the above it will be seen that many samples were taken during the year and the results were very satisfactory.

Water Consumption, Rushden :

Total consumption for the year	...	180,928,000 gallons
Trade purposes	... ..	36,318,000 gallons
Domestic	... ..	144,610,000 gallons

The total consumption for the year shows an increase of 7,008,000 gallons over the previous year. This increase was made up as follows :

Trade purposes	... ..	4,390,000 gallons
Domestic	... ..	2,618,000 gallons

The daily consumption per head for domestic and municipal purposes and for trade purposes over the last five years is shown in the following table :

			1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Domestic and Municipal							
Purposes	...	...	20·6	22·35	21·5	24·3	24·13
Trade Purposes	...	...	9·31	5·3	6·0	5·4	6·07
Total	...	...	29·91	27·65	27·5	29·7	30·20

Piped Supply. 5,537 houses in the area have a piped supply. This figure shows an increase of 153 over the previous year. 93 houses are dependent on standpipes and 40 houses are not supplied by the town mains. Some of the houses dependent on standpipes are in areas that will come under consideration in the course of the next five years for clearance. Houses without a piped supply are in outlying districts, and it is recommended that wherever possible a supply should be made convenient for these houses.

Number of Council houses connected to Town Mains in 1954—120.

Number of Private houses connected to Town Mains in 1954—33.

The rainfall for the period 1949 to 1954 was :

			1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Rushden	...		18.51	25.31	27.80	25.01	18.64	28.44
Sywell	...	...	18.48	24.88	26.94	22.22	17.10	27.26

From this table it will be seen that 1954 had the greatest rainfall for a period of six years.

The works connected with water undertakings are well maintained.

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage works are situated on the outskirts of the town and well screened from houses. They are well maintained and much credit is due to the sewage works superintendent for the efficient working of this disposal works over so many years. Proposals for reconstruction work to be carried out have been submitted to the Ministry and the Ministry have asked for further information concerning the matter. As these works were constructed over 40 years ago, and since then the population of the town has increased, and trade wastes very much increased, the works are over-loaded and require extending and enlarging.

A brief description of the works is as follows : The crude sewage on entering the works is first screened and large matter removed. It then passes into settling tanks. These tanks should provide efficient settlement and the breaking down of organic solids. The sludge which settles on the bottom is gravitated to sludge drying beds. Sewage should take roughly 14 hours to pass through the settlement tank. This is not

so at present as the capacity of the tanks is not sufficiently large to hold sewage for this period. The effluent from these tanks should be substantially free from solids as from here the effluent passes to the primary filter beds. Here the effluent is sprinkled by rotating arms over the filter beds and percolates through the beds. In its passage through the beds the effluent is acted on by the "life" in the bed and harmful bacteria in the sewage removed. The effluent is collected from the primary beds and brought to the secondary filter beds where the same process is repeated. The final effluent from the works is discharged into a brook which runs into the River Nene.

Protection of life in the beds is most important and over-loading or effluents with high solid particles should be avoided. The beds also require sufficient resting. 800 tons of sludge was collected during the year. Disposal of this creates a problem.

On 12th October, 1954, two samples were taken for chemical analysis. One was an average sample of crude sewage taken over a period of 6 hours as it arrives at the works. The second was an average sample of final effluent taken over a period of six hours, as it leaves the works and is discharged into the brook. The results of these two samples was as follows :

<i>Reaction</i>	<i>Crude Sewage</i>			<i>Final effluent</i>		
	<i>PH 8.2</i>			<i>PH 7.2</i>		
The sample contained :	<i>Parts per 100,000</i>			<i>Parts per 100,000</i>		
Suspended Solids	80.5			6.10
Chloride	28.8			19.9
Ammonia (Free or Saline)	...		12.20			2.03
Ammonia (Albuminoid)	...		1.71			0.19
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C.	25.41			5.62
Oxygen absorbed in 3 minutes			13.26			1.69
Dissolved oxygen absorbed in 5 days at 65°F. (B.O.D.)	...		64.0			2.45
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)			Absent			6.75
Tar Compounds	Absent			Absent
Sulphuretted Hydrogen	...		Trace			Absent
Thiocyanates	Absent			Absent
Thiosulphates	Faint trace			Absent

Remarks, Crude Sewage : The figure obtained by the application of the McGowan formula indicates that the sample is a strong sewage.

Remarks, final effluent : The figure obtained for suspended solids exceeds to some small extent the limit recommended by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal (i.e., 3 parts per 100,000) whilst the

amount of dissolved oxygen absorbed in 5 days, very slightly exceeds the recommended limit (i.e., 2 parts per 100,000). Nitrification appears to be reasonably satisfactory.

It is to be recommended that an effort be made to reduce the suspended solid matter and to improve the bacterial oxidation process before discharging this effluent into a river.

From the Analyst's remarks it will be seen that the suspended solids are too high and the B.O.D. figure is also above the recommended limit. The time has undoubtedly come for implementing the Surveyor's scheme to enlarge these works and it would be a mistaken policy to delay this work too long.

The volume of sewage dealt with at the works during the year was as follows :

Total volume dealt with at works	...	330,233,801 gallons
Filtered	... ..	253,633,250 gallons
Storm	... ..	76,600,551 gallons
Average daily flow	... ..	904,750 gallons
Average daily flow filtered	... ..	694,885 gallons
Maximum storm flow (day)	... ..	3,650,540 gallons
		(13th June, 1954)
Maximum filtered flow (day)	... ..	1,030,000 gallons

These figures show a marked increase on figures for the previous year.

The Court Estate. The scheme for the drainage and sewage disposal for 45 houses on this estate received Ministry approval and work has commenced. The Ministry proposed that some further houses in the vicinity might be brought into this scheme and it is hoped that this will be possible. At present houses in this area are dependent for sewage disposal on cess pits, which is not a satisfactory method.

Closet accommodation. Eight outlying houses are dependent on bucket latrines. A few areas such as the Court Estate, Sanders Lodge, which have no sewers, houses in the areas are dependent on septic tanks or cess pits. The remainder of houses in the Urban District are on main sewage drainage. Whenever possible it is desirable that all houses should be on main drainage as other methods are a very poor second best.

Disinfection. The Council maintain a disinfection station. The method adopted for disinfection is steam under pressure. The building where this work is carried out is divided into separate parts so that incoming articles for disinfection do not come into contact with clothing, bedding, etc., which has been disinfected. This is the only disinfection station remaining in the area and other local authorities avail of the

opportunity of having necessary work carried out by arrangement. Further details concerning work carried out at this centre during the year will be found in the second section of this report.

Concurrent and terminal disinfection of houses associated with cases of infectious diseases was carried out when required.

Swimming Baths. The Council run an open-air swimming pool. This is maintained in a satisfactory manner. During the latter end of the year alterations were carried out to the dressing accommodation. Water in the pool is filtered and chlorinated. Ten samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Seven samples were very satisfactory and three unsatisfactory. Follow-up samples proved of a satisfactory nature.

Moveable Dwellings. The caravan site situated off the Bedford Road is maintained in a satisfactory manner. Some difficulty is experienced from time to time from gypsies parking within the town. One wonders if a higher authority might sometime consider establishing throughout the country certain sites where these people could park for certain periods, where necessary amenities could be provided.

Rates and Mice, Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Details of work carried out by the rodent operator will be found in the second section of this report.

Public Cleansing. Cleansing of the streets is carried out by a mechanical sweeper and by lengthmen with street orderlies. Gullies are emptied at intervals by the gulley emptier. The refuse disposal service is functioning satisfactorily. A bonus scheme was introduced during the year depending upon the number of bins collected above a given target. This is enabling a weekly collection to be kept up and on occasions a collection in less than a week, which is very satisfactory. The Council have three vehicles for the collection of refuse, and controlled tipping is carried out at a site off the Bedford Road.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The Council's building programme for the year was as follows :

Number of Council houses built during the year	...	120
Number under construction at the end of the year	...	64
Number of licences for private dwellings issued	...	11
Number of private houses built	... ..	33
Number under construction at the end of the year	...	17
Number converted into flats	... ..	1
Number of Council houses completed to the end of 1954		640

Types of houses built :

2 and 3 bedroom houses ; 2 bedroom flats ; 1 and 2 bedroom flats.

The year's programme was satisfactory and 50 more Council houses were built than in the previous year. The number of private houses constructed showed an increase, being 33 compared with 15 in 1953.

Slum Clearance. A start was made on this important work during the year. Official representations were made to the Council concerning five areas and the necessary action was taken. This is a subject that should figure largely in the work of local authorities over the next five years as the Ministry has requested local authorities to draw up a five year programme to deal with unfit properties. Slum Clearance may be a bad term as often one finds many humble homes in unfit properties which are kept like little palaces. Great credit is due to persons who keep up such high standards under such bad circumstances. Clearance areas may be a better term. The standards of fitness of a house are judged roughly on its freedom from dampness, whether caused by rising or percolating dampness, its amenities, internal arrangements, and siting. If a house is unfit then it constitutes a potential danger to the health of the occupants and should be cleared.

Housing Applications. There were 311 names on the application list for Council houses at the end of the year. This is 166 less than at the end of the previous year.

			<i>No</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>More</i>	
			<i>children</i>	<i>child</i>	<i>children</i>	<i>than 2</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Tenants :</i>							
Rushden	...	...	11	17	9	3	
Outside area	...	...	3	7	3	—	53

Rooms :

Rushden	...	...	33	25	4	—	
Outside area	...	...	5	3	1	—	71

Caravan :

Rushden	...	...	2	2	—	—	
Outside area	...	...	1	—	—	—	5

No accommodation :

Rushden	...	...	—	—	—	—
Outside area	...	...	—	1	1	—	2

Total of applicants who have completed 12 months

waiting period 131

Total of other applicants 180*

Grand Total 311

* Of these it is anticipated that at least 60 will provide accommodation for themselves or leave the district.

Inspections of the living conditions of many applicants were made during the year and reports forwarded to the Housing Department. The co-operation of the Housing Committee in dealing with cases where a health factor was involved was much appreciated.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises. Details of routine inspections of food premises carried out by the Health Department will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

Milk Supply. The situation with regard to the supervision and sampling remains unchanged. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries supervise producers and the County Council, as Licensing Authority for Pasteurised plants, sample pasteurised milk. The Health Department took 125 milk samples during the year and the results of these samples were as follows :

<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Test invalid</i>
117	8	Nil

Keeping qualities. Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests :

<i>Test</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Test invalid</i>
Phosphatase	77	2	—
Methylene Blue	79	—	—

The results of these samples are very satisfactory.

Washed Milk Bottle Rinses and Churn Rinses.

Washed bottles :

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>No. Examined</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
73	73	65	8

Churn rinses :

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>No. Examined</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
2	2	2	Nil

The results of these samples were also very satisfactory and it will be seen that Rushden is maintaining a high standard with regard to the purity and keeping quality of milk sold in the area and the cleanliness of milk. The public should assist by respecting milk bottles and not using them for any other purpose than that for which they are provided.

Manufacture and Sale of Ice-cream. There are 58 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. This is the same number as last year.

<i>No. of premises registered</i>	<i>Hot Mix</i>	<i>Cold Mix</i>	<i>Pre-packed</i>
58	1	4	53

From this it will be seen that the majority of ice-cream sold in the area is pre-packed.

64 samples were taken during the year and the results were as follows :

<i>Total</i>	<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
64	43	15	5	1

Here again the results were of a satisfactory nature.

Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940. Up to 5th July, 1954, the area was supplied by the Rushden Abattoir where beasts for human consumption were slaughtered. The Slaughterhouse Act received the Royal Assent on the 5th July and came into operation forthwith. When the Government announced its decision to de-control meat it re-affirmed its intention of bringing about a moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities throughout the country in the future. In the interim period private slaughterhouses could be used. No statutory standards were laid down by the Ministry for these private slaughterhouses, but it was stated that local authorities should have regard to the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, when granting a licence. Local authorities were asked to survey their areas to see if there were sufficient facilities for the needs of their population. With regard to Rushden, the abattoir in existence was quite adequate for this.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Smallpox. No cases occurred.

Vaccination. The vaccination figures for 1954 were as follows :

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	67	—	2	4	8	81
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	2	22	26
						<hr/> 107 <hr/>

The figures for 1953 were :

Primary	69	—	12	13	8	102
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	—	17	17
						<hr/> 119 <hr/>

From the above it will be seen that there was a fall in the number of persons vaccinated, particularly in the primary vaccination of the younger age groups. This is not satisfactory and every endeavour must be made to encourage parents to have their children vaccinated. The third month of life is the best time for primary vaccination.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. No cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever. 16 cases were notified compared with 13 in the previous year. Two cases were removed to hospital. Further details will be found in Tables Nos. 8 and 9.

Diphtheria. The area has now been free from this disease for a period of nine years.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. The following table shows the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1954 :

<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Booster</i>
44	14	1	3	—	3	—	65	103

These figures do not include children immunised by private arrangements. On the first Saturday of each month an Immunisation Clinic is held at the Alfred Street Schools.

A combined inoculation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is now used and as will be seen from the following table, parents are availing themselves of this form of protection from these two diseases, for their children. The combined figures for the period were :

	<i>Under</i>	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	<i>Total</i>
Combined Diphtheria-Pertussis	93	19	10	1	—	3	—	126
Whooping Cough only	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

The following table shows the number of children in Rushden who have completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1954 :

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31 December, 1954								
Age at 31:12:54 <i>i.e.</i> Born in Year ...	<i>Under</i> 1 1954	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5 to 9 1945-1949	10 to 14 1940-1944	<i>Total</i> <i>under 15</i>
Number <i>Immunised</i>	12	116	122	126	161	965	944	2446

Measles. Two cases were notified as compared with 187 in the previous year. During the latter part of 1952 and early 1953 an outbreak of measles occurred in the district and when this occurs few cases develop during the following year. Tables Nos. 8 and 9 give further details. There were no deaths from this cause.

Whooping Cough. 23 cases of Whooping Cough were notified which is a considerable increase on 1953, when only one case was recorded. Further details will be found in Tables Nos. 8 and 9.

Puerperal Pyrexia. One case occurred. There was also one case in the previous year.

Pneumonia. Seven cases were notified which is the same number as in 1953. Eight deaths were registered giving Pneumonia as the primary cause of death. In the previous year there were seven deaths.

Influenza. No deaths were notified from this cause. There were no deaths in 1953 from Influenza.

Erysipelas. One case was notified compared with 3 cases in the previous year.

Poliomyelitis. For the second year in succession no cases of Poliomyelitis were notified.

Tuberculosis. Eighteen new cases were notified which is an increase on the figures for 1953, when twelve cases were notified. Sixteen of the cases (10 males and 6 females) were of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and the remaining two cases were of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, both occurring in males. One death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was recorded during the year and this is the lowest figure recorded over the last fourteen years. Last year there were 3 deaths from this cause. Table No. 7, page 34 gives further information concerning age incidence and deaths from Tuberculosis. Thirteen cases were admitted to the Rushden Sanatorium during the year and 15 cases were discharged. The number of new cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) notified during the last fourteen years was as follows :

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
21	20	18	17	31	15	18	11	16	18	10	14	12
1954												
18												

The mortality rate from Tuberculosis during the same period was :

1941-1954					
Year	Tuberculosis—all forms			Rate (crude) per	
				1,000 of population	
	Male	Female	Total	Rushden	County
1941	10	4	14	·79	·50
1942	4	4	8	·48	·49
1943	2	3	5	·32	·50
1944	4	7	11	·72	·62
1945	5	1	6	·43	·58
1946	7	3	10	·65	·45
1947	7	2	9	·58	·36
1948	4	2	6	·36	·42
1949	5	4	9	·54	·43
1950	1	2	3	·18	·30
1951	3	1	4	·24	·26
1952	8	2	10	·61	·25
1953	3	—	3	·18	·18
1954	1	—	1	·06	*

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis register on the 31st December, 1954, was as follows :

Total Number	139	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	64	38	102
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	18	19	37

Tuberculosis After-Care Committee. Rushden is very fortunate in having such an active and well organised Committee and much good work was done by the members during the year for sufferers from Tuberculosis.

Food Poisoning. Two cases occurred during the year. The cases occurred in the same household. Last year two cases were also notified.

Dysentery. One case was notified. In 1953 15 cases of Dysentery were notified.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

As will be seen from Table No. 10, page 36 there are 149 factories on the register which is the same number as last year. From this table also will be seen details of inspections made and action taken.

There are 144 outworkers in the area which is an increase of 33 on the previous year.

No complaints were received concerning the carrying out of out-work (Sections 110 and 111).

In factories where mechanical power is not used, the provision with regard to cleanliness, temperature, ventilation, drainage of floors and numbers employed were satisfactory and no complaints were received.

Further details concerning this chapter will be found in the second part of this report.

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE No. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1954.

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... ..	4	—	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	4	14
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	17	27
18. Coronary disease, angina	13	10	23
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	3	7
20. Other heart disease	22	24	46
21. Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	5	3	8
24. Bronchitis	5	5	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	—	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	—	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	4	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	2	2	4
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	101	86	187

TABLE No. 2.

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES, 1929-1954.

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1929	—	—	12	0·85	21	1·49	39	2·76	9	0·64
1930	1	0·08	7	0·49	11	0·78	38	2·71	16	1·14
1931	—	—	10	0·70	17	1·18	47	3·29	23	1·61
1932	1	0·07	10	0·70	10	0·70	48	3·37	18	1·26
1933	2	0·13	14	0·97	20	1·39	53	3·69	9	0·62
1934	1	0·07	10	0·69	22	1·52	81	5·62	9	0·62
1935	6	0·41	5	0·34	16	1·09	51	3·50	12	0·82
1936	3	0·20	9	0·61	18	1·22	66	4·47	12	0·81
1937	—	—	4	0·26	21	1·41	68	4·56	10	0·67
1938	—	—	10	0·66	23	1·52	69	4·57	7	0·46
1939	1	0·06	11	0·70	23	1·46	57	3·63	9	0·57
1940	3	0·17	10	0·60	32	1·92	78	4·69	23	1·38
1941	1	0·06	13	0·52	32	1·81	79	4·48	26	1·47
1942	1	0·06	7	0·43	28	1·72	72	4·42	13	0·80
1943	—	—	5	0·32	32	2·00	51	3·29	20	1·29
1944	4	0·26	7	0·46	22	1·45	101	6·66	22	1·45
1945	2	0·14	4	0·28	24	1·76	101	7·17	9	0·63
1946	3	0·19	7	0·46	29	1·90	106	6·31	18	1·18
1947	1	0·06	8	0·51	15	0·97	115	7·44	17	1·10
1948	—	—	6	0·36	30	1·83	95	5·82	16	0·98
1949	2	0·12	7	0·42	31	1·88	123	7·49	23	1·40
1950	—	—	3	0·18	34	2·06	117	7·10	26	1·57
1951	1	0·06	3	0·18	26	1·60	93	5·73	24	1·47
1952	2	0·12	8	0·49	41	2·52	102	6·27	17	1·04
1953	—	—	3	0·18	28	1·70	85	5·18	16	0·97
1954	—	—	1	0·06	29	1·75	110	6·65	19	1·14

TABLE No. 3.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR—1954

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Age in weeks</i>					
	—1	—2	—3	—4	5-52	<i>Total</i>
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	2	—	—	—	—	2
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia and Atelectasis ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Debility	—	—	—	—	1	1
Maemolytic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	5	1	—	—	1	7

TABLE No. 4.

DEATH AND BIRTH RATES FOR 1899-1954.

Year	Estimated Population mid-year	Net Births		Net Deaths belonging to District			
		No.	Rate per 1,000	Under 1 year		At all Ages	
				No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1899	12,245	463	37.8	49	105.8	145	11.8
1900	14,359	434	30.2	65	149.0	153	10.6
1901	12,453	424	33.6	46	108.4	123	9.7
1902	12,961	407	31.4	50	122.8	133	10.2
1903	13,337	404	30.2	37	91.5	139	10.4
1904	13,713	387	28.2	46	118.8	162	11.8
1905	14,089	328	23.2	36	109.7	119	8.4
1906	14,190	351	24.7	40	113.9	122	8.5
1907	14,816	315	21.2	25	79.3	131	8.1
1908	15,192	310	20.4	35	112.9	122	8.0
1909	15,817	284	17.9	31	109.1	130	8.2
1910	16,442	278	16.9	20	71.9	128	7.7
1911	13,377	281	21.0	29	103.2	130	9.7
1912	13,658	287	21.0	24	83.6	121	8.8
1913	13,752	237	17.2	19	80.1	118	8.7
1914	13,915	246	17.6	18	73.1	124	8.9
1915	13,787	277	19.9	30	108.3	145	10.5
1916	13,531*	256	17.3	15	58.5	138	10.1
1917	12,315*	200	14.5	12	60.0	123	9.9
	13,728†						
	14,722†						
1918	12,900*	158	12.7	8	43.2	129	10.0
	14,454†						
1919	13,850*	206	14.2	27	131.0	153	11.0
	14,428†						
1920	14,402	328	22.7	24	73.1	133	9.2
1921	13,720	273	19.8	22	80.5	147	10.7
1922	13,740	247	17.9	19	76.9	132	9.6
1923	13,790	243	17.6	12	49.3	131	9.4
1924	13,750	198	14.4	11	55.5	135	9.8
1925	13,780	211	15.3	13	61.6	138	10.0
1926	13,520	208	15.3	6	28.8	131	9.7
1927	13,550	174	12.8	10	57.4	139	10.2
1928	13,650	174	12.0	10	57.4	146	10.6
1929	14,020	174	12.4	9	51.7	127	9.0
1930	14,020	191	13.6	7	36.6	121	8.6
1931	14,280	161	11.3	8	49.7	154	10.8
1932	14,240	170	11.9	10	58.8	142	9.9
1933	14,370	168	11.7	7	47.6	159	11.1
1934	14,410	161	11.2	8	49.7	180	12.5
1935	14,550	176	12.1	15	85.2	155	10.7
1936	14,740	182	12.3	5	27.5	167	11.3
1937	14,890	191	12.9	6	31.4	155	10.4
1938	15,090	192	12.7	6	31.3	160	10.6
1939	15,690*	225	14.2	6	26.7	152	9.7
	15,200†						
1940	16,580	200	12.4	16	77.7	233	14.1
1941	17,600	193	10.9	11	54.1	185	10.5
1942	16,250	251	15.5	6	23.9	163	10.0
1943	15,490	281	18.1	8	28.4	172	11.1
1944	15,140	278	18.4	15	53.9	202	13.3
1945	14,070	282	20.0	14	49.6	176	12.6
1946	15,210	270	17.74	9	33.33	215	14.13
1947	15,440	308	19.94	8	25.97	200	12.95
1948	16,320	283	17.34	9	31.80	184	11.27
1949	16,410	219	13.34	3	13.69	221	13.46
1950	16,460	227	13.79	10	44.05	222	13.48
1951	16,220	199	12.26	1	5.02	218	13.44
1952	16,250	200	12.30	1	5.00	204	12.55
1953	16,390	229	13.97	2	8.73	156	9.51
1954	16,540	229	13.84	7	30.56	187	11.30

(*) Estimated population for calculation of Birth Rates.

(†) Estimated population for calculation of Death Rates.

TABLE No. 5.

**COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS
AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH.
1934-54.**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Stillbirths per 1,000.</i>		<i>Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births.</i>	<i>Male births per 1,000 live female births.</i>
	<i>Population of all ages.</i>	<i>Total births (live and still).</i>		
1934	0.55	47.32	49.69	1038
1935	0.76	58.83	39.77	934
1936	0.27	21.51	54.94	1166
1937	0.27	20.51	26.18	1010
1938	0.26	20.41	52.30	1087
1939	0.51	34.34	48.89	1008
1940	0.42	33.89	25.00	923
1941	0.51	44.54	56.99	1144
1942	0.31	19.54	75.70	1002
1943	0.89	47.45	53.46	1006
1944	0.55	32.05	133.09	1122
1945	0.21	20.83	95.74	1389
1946	0.39	21.73	55.55	1368
1947	0.38	25.47	32.46	1013
1948	0.61	34.12	42.40	1035
1949	0.12	9.04	36.52	1126
1950	0.30	21.55	30.83	1026
1951	0.18	14.85	35.17	809
1952	0.12	9.90	50.00	1000
1953	0.61	41.84	43.66	1385
1954	0.18	12.93	69.86	1063

TABLE No. 6.

**MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.**

<i>Age Periods</i>			<i>Measles</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>	
			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
— 6 months	...		—	—	—	1
—12 "	...		—	—	1	1
—18 "	...		—	—	2	—
— 2 years	...		—	—	—	—
—2½ "	...		—	—	3	—
— 3 "	...		—	—	—	—
— 4 "	...		—	—	—	—
— 5 "	...		—	—	1	2
—10 "	...		1	1	4	5
—15 "	...		—	—	1	1
15 " +	...		—	—	—	—
ALL AGES ...	...		1	1	12	10
TOTALS ...	...		2		22	

TABLE No. 7.

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1954.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—25	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
—35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—45	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
—55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—65	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	10	6	2	—	1	—	—	—

TABLE No. 8.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis). 1954.

Disease	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65	65 +	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	—	2	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	16	2	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	7	—	8
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping cough	1	4	3	—	3	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	1	4	4	—	5	24	3	—	4	2	5	1	53	2	8

TABLE No. 9.
MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(Other than Tuberculosis). 1954.

DISEASE	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTALS
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	1	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	3	5	16
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	7
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Whooping cough	—	—	—	1	5	8	1	—	—	3	3	2	23
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
TOTALS ...	2	—	—	3	13	10	2	1	—	5	8	9	53

TABLE No. 10.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, for the year, 1954.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	141	25	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	2	3	—
TOTAL ...	149	27	7	Nil.

2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3	—	1	—
TOTAL	9	9	—	5	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—						
Making, etc. ...	144	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper bags	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	144	—	—	—	—	—

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

Year 1954



H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector's Department

STAFF, 1954

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

B. HALL, M.S.I.A.

Student Pupil :

Post Vacant.

Clerk and Shorthand Typist :

Miss A. Clark (*Resigned 24th February, 1954*)

Mrs. P. Danczyk.

Outside Staff :

W. West—*Disinfector and General Labourer*

R. Butler—*Rodent Operator*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Council Buildings,
Rushden.
1954.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rushden Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the environmental circumstances of the district for the year 1954.

The main developments in the field of public health were the decontrol of slaughtering and the placing on the statute book of two important Acts, viz. the Housing Repairs and Rent Acts 1954, and the Food and Drugs Act 1954.

The Food and Drugs Act, depending as it did on ^{regulations made under} the principal Act, lost a great deal of its purpose, and therefore activities were concentrated on the slum clearance programme and other requirements of the Housing Acts.

Compared with many other administrative areas, Rushden was fortunate in being little affected by the decontrol of slaughtering. Although, since 1940, the meat inspection services had been carried out for the benefit of five times its own population, no new slaughterhouses were opened and it was possible to inspect the carcasses at one centralised slaughterhouse.

It has been made clear during recent years that a new sociological problem is emerging from our modern civilisation ; that of old age. It seems that at some future date, and that not far distant, when Governments must needs legislate to assist the voluntary bodies attempting to cope with the initial stages of an unmistakable future problem.

The Council can take pride in the assistance given to promote the Rushden Senior Citizens' Goodwill Committee which has carried out much good work in this sphere and is capable of expanding its activities in the future. This work cannot be ignored by the Health Department and is likely to be included as part of their duties in years to come.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, who have always given me their support, my staff, who make possible this report, and Dr. P. X. Bermingham, for his help and assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
your obedient servant,

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PART I

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

The following tables indicate the extent of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

1. VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Houses—

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	761
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	256
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Drainage Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rats and Mice Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	364
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Factories with power	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Verminous Premises or Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Revisits to Premises Under Notice—P.H. Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Revisits to Premises Under Notice—H. Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Visits—Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Meat and Foods—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	511
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grocers and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Manf. or prep. of preserved food	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Restaurants and Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Visits <i>re</i> Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Milk Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Milk Bottles and Churn Rinses Sampled	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Water Samples Taken—Main	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Interviews at Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	321
Telephone calls made	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Telephone calls received	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Ice-cream Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	64

TOTAL VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	3,915
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Notices Served—

P.H. Acts (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	...	190
Factories Act	4
Milk and Dairies Regulations	1

TOTAL NOTICES SERVED	195
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NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED

Year ending December, 1954

Houses—

Roofs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	28
Walls (External) Repointed, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wall Plaster Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sinks or Wash Basins Provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Repairs to Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Stores Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sashcords Provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Doors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Yards and Passages Paved or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness Abated	...	...	...	...	...	6
Handrails Fixed in Staircases	...	...	...	...	...	1

Drainage—

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	...	...	...	...	...	65
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	56
Drains Connected to Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	33
Vent Pipes or F.A.I.'s Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
New Gullies Provided	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cesspools Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	207

Water Closets—

New W.C.'s Provided	...	...	...	...	...	27
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
W.C. Pedestals Provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4

Miscellaneous—

Dustbins—New provided	...	...	...	...	...	180
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Animals—Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Verminous Premises Disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premises Cleared—Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	321

Contraventions Remedied In—

Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Premises Generally	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	7

TOTAL DEFECTS REMEDIED	1,013
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

2. Drainage and Sanitation.

During 1954 the Ministry of Health approved the scheme for sewerage part of the Court Estate. With their approval came a recommendation to extend the scheme, which enabled another 21 houses to be connected to the new sewer.

Following previous reports of the Health Department, the Council are now considering further schemes, one of which will deal with the rapidly developing industrial area in Wellingborough Road.

Routine drainage works entailed 118 visits for the purposes of advice and inspection and tests were applied on 56 occasions. Five schemes warranted the submission of drainage plans.

Ten combined drainage systems were found defective, and it was necessary to supply the Surveyor with sketch plans and details of defects in order to arrange the execution of repairs in accordance with Section 24 of the Public Health Act 1936.

3. Refuse Collection.

The modified scheme for municipal dustbin ownership was put into operation in the early part of the year, and its introduction coincided with a revised method of reward for the refuse collectors, based on a bonus system.

This modified scheme provided three choices for an owner of a property where a dustbin was found defective ; the owner could purchase a bin from whatsoever source he chose ; he could purchase a regulation bin from the Council ; or the Council would supply and maintain a dustbin for the property at an annual charge of 5/-.

An intensified survey, carried out in co-operation with the Surveyor's Department, revealed that 180 dustbins were defective and replacement was effected as follows :

Supplied by owners	86
Purchased outright from the Council	36
Supplied by the Council at an annual charge of 5/-	58
Total	180

4. Disinfestations and Disinfections.

The disinfection station was used to good effect, and the arrangement made to operate for neighbouring authorities was extended.

Two properties were treated for bed bug infestation during the year.

Disinfection Table

	<i>Rooms</i>	<i>Articles of Bedding</i>	<i>Articles of Clothing</i>	<i>House- hold Articles</i>
After cases of Infectious Disease	37	96		
Private requests	13	16		
Wellingborough U.D.C.		270		1
Verminous Premises	8	26		
Articles Destroyed		40	8	
	58	448	8	1

Amount recoverable : £35/4/6

5. Rodent Control.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, a display outlining the rodent menace was exhibited in the Gas Showrooms

in the High Street. For a week following this display, the number of complaints increased, but the service is so well established and widely known, it appears that no further publicity is necessary.

The new system of estimating the kill has now been in operation for more than one year. The figures for 1954 are set down below.

		<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>
Estimated kill ...	...	1,687	3,351
Bodies picked up ...	...	516	305

The town sewers were tested, baited and treated on two occasions.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1939

The following report for 1954 was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>All other (including business premises)</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Agri-cultural</i>
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	27	5,535	946	6,508	16
II. Number of properties inspected as result of :					
(a) Notification ...		191	33	224	8
(b) Survey ...	22	1,070	100	1,197	
(c) Otherwise ...		12	15	27	
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections ...	33	1,363	147	1,543	
IV. Number of properties inspected found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats { Major ...	4	8		12	
Minor ...	2	224	35	261	8
(b) Mice ...	1	39	72	112	
V. Number of infested properties treated by L.A. ...	7	271	107	385	8
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments ...	12	320	135	467	

Number of " block " control schemes carried out—29.

6. Moveable Dwellings.

No further attempts were made to establish commercial caravan sites and it appears that the one authorised site at Bedford Road is quite adequate for the needs of intending caravan dwellers in the urban district.

Two individual licences were granted for a limited period to persons erecting new houses.

The presence of itinerant tinkers has caused some embarrassment to the Health Department from time to time by encamping on the open spaces in the area. No sooner have these people been removed from one site, they are reported to be established on another not far distant. The prosperity of the rag and bone trade is the main attraction and each site which they vacate is littered with unwanted rubbish following their sorting activities.

7. Factories and Workshops.

There were 149 factories and workshops on the register at the end of December, 1954. It was not found possible to set a special period aside for routine inspections; twenty-seven visits were made. Seven written notices were sent to managements concerning dirty premises, defective or unsuitable sanitary accommodation and other offences against the Factories Act 1937-48.

It was again necessary to deal with several nuisances arising from the burning of leather bits in factory furnaces.

The table showing inspections and defects remedied will be found on page 36 of the Medical Officer's report.

8. Nuisance from Petrol—Victoria Hotel.

During the month of April the Health Department was requested by the management of the Victoria Hotel to investigate an unpleasant smell, which eventually proved to be a serious nuisance caused by petrol gaining access to the drainage system.

After discovering a flow of petrol in the cellar drainage, it was established that the spirit was gaining access by means of land drainage, and a check was made of all streams and water courses in the catchment area, without result.

All legitimate petrol storage tanks were next examined and samples of petrol were compared with a sample taken from the Victoria Hotel. One installation contained a spirit which resembled the petrol obtained from the cellar drains.

This garage is about 250 yards distant from the hotel and fell under suspicion because of the above mentioned similarity of petrols and the fact that the Health Department had been investigating sporadic complaints of petrol fumes in a number of houses nearby. The suspected tank was subjected to an air pressure test for twenty-four hours, which proved satisfactory.

The Health Department then began to look for new sources and several old wells in the vicinity of the garage were examined. One in Victoria Road was opened up and it was found to be twenty-six feet deep, containing four feet of water, and having four inches of petrol floating on the water.

Samples sent to the Home Office Forensic Laboratory at Nottingham failed to establish any proof of the source, and therefore the testing of the apparatus at the garage was intensified. A defective pipeline was discovered, immediately repaired, the well pumped dry, all petrol removed, and from that time onwards, the nuisance at the Victoria Hotel, 250 yards

distant, was remedied. The whole operation lasted three weeks and involved the services of the Police, Fire Brigade and the Surveyor's Department, besides attracting the journalists of the National Press.

9. Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Three premises were registered under this Act for the keeping of pet shops.

10. Swimming Pool.

Ten samples of water from the swimming pool were taken during the season.

Three samples showed unsatisfactory counts, but as these samples were taken at precisely the same time as samples showing satisfactory results, no definite conclusions were reached.

The pool is not covered and it is possible that contamination from outside sources occasionally occurs.

11. Cesspool Emptying.

The demand for this service continues to grow, and the following summary gives an indication of the work carried out.

Cesspools emptied within the Urban District ...	174
Cesspools emptied outside the Urban District	33
	<hr/>
Total	207
	<hr/>

In addition, the machine was loaned to adjoining local authorities for 446³/₄ hours, and the National Caravan Club Rally at Overstone for thirty-six hours.

PART 2.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk and Dairies.

The number of milk purveyors on the register at the end of December 1954 was reduced to nine, only one being a producer-retailer.

Two traders deal with raw milk in small quantities, the remainder sold in the area being pasteurised ; pasteurised milk will amount to more than 95% of all milk sold.

The largest local pasteurising plant was processing at the rate of 22,000 pints per day, and it is perhaps natural to receive the odd complaint from a firm with such a large turnover.

The plant is inspected at frequent intervals by the Health Department and the owner has adopted a suggestion made on a previous occasion, to set up a system of milk testing, with the object of rejecting unsatisfactory milk arriving at the dairy from the farms.

The business is expanding to such an extent that the owner is now seeking a site on which to build a larger dairy.

Seven T.T., eight Pasteurised licences and one Sterilised licence were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936-49.

Examination of Milk

One hundred and twenty-five samples were taken for examination by the prescribed tests carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton.

The results were highly satisfactory and the standard of cleanliness was maintained.

The analyses of the 1954 samples were as follows :

93.6% satisfactory ;
6.4% unsatisfactory.

Five of the eight unsatisfactory results were recorded during the summer months when the overnight temperatures approached or exceeded 65°F.

Milk Samples

<i>Month</i>		<i>No. of samples taken</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Test invalid</i>
January	...	11	11	11	—	—
February	...	11	11	11	—	—
March	...	11	11	11	—	—
April	...	11	11	11	—	—
May	...	11	11	11	—	—
June	...	11	11	10	1	—
July	...	11	11	8	3	—
August	...	11	11	10	1	—
September	...	10	10	10	—	—
October	...	11	11	9	2	—
November	...	10	10	9	1	—
December	...	6	6	6	—	—
Totals	...	125	125	117	8	—

Pasteurised Milk.

Seventy-nine samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the prescribed Phosphatase test, with the following results :

<i>Samples taken</i>	<i>Test</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Test invalid</i>
79	Phosphatase	77	2	—
	Methylene Blue	79	—	—

Two samples failed the phosphatase test, indicating that the milk had been insufficiently heat treated and investigation revealed that a replacement pump on the pasteurising plant was forcing the milk through the pasteuriser at a greater rate than the original pump. This fault was located and rectified within a few days.

Biological Samples.

Two samples of milk were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination for the presence of the Tubercle bacillus.

Both samples were reported free from contamination.

Washed milk bottles and churns.

Although fewer samples of washed milk bottles were taken during the year, this method of control over milk distribution was not neglected. Several traders ceased to bottle milk and obtained their supplies from wholesalers, and therefore the number of dairies from which samples were taken was reduced.

The standard of cleanliness remained high.

Washed Milk Bottles					
<i>Month</i>		<i>No. Samples taken</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
January	...	7	7	7	—
February	...	6	6	6	—
March	...	7	7	6	1
April	...	5	5	5	—
May	...	6	6	4	2
June	...	6	6	5	1
July	...	7	7	7	—
August	...	7	7	6	1
September	...	6	6	6	—
October	...	9	9	8	1
November	...	4	4	2	2
December	...	3	3	3	—
TOTALS		73	73	65	8

		Churn Rinses			
<i>Month</i>		<i>No. Samples Taken</i>	<i>No. Examined</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
March	...	2	2	2	—

2. Manufacture and Sale of Ice-cream.

The trade has now settled down to dealing in pre-packed ice-cream and the trend is for the lesser known firms to amalgamate with the two largest firms in the country.

The state of the register at the end of 1954 was almost unchanged.

Hot mix manufacturers	...	...	...	1
Cold mix manufacturers	...	...	...	4
Sellers of bulk ice-cream	...	...	...	1
Sellers of pre-packed ice-cream	...	...	...	52
Total	...	...	...	58

There were eleven brands on sale and it was possible to obtain a series of samples in nine cases.

Sixty-four samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and the following table shows that only one trader failed to comply with the prescribed standards.

Ice-Cream Samples

<i>Brands</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Grade 1 Good</i>	<i>Grade 2 Fairly Good</i>	<i>Grade 3 Bad</i>	<i>Grade 4 Very Bad</i>
A	8	6	1	1	—
B	8	6	2	—	—
C	9	1	6	2	—
D	7	5	2	—	—
E	7	6	1	—	—
F	8	8	—	—	—
G	6	3	1	1	1
H	4	2	1	1	—
I	7	6	1	—	—
Totals	64	43	15	5	1

3. Food and Drugs Act 1938-54.

The Food and Drugs Acts were administered by carrying out routine inspections, but these visits were curtailed by the amount of time devoted to the slum clearance programme.

One complaint received, worthy of special note, involved a tin of lobster which was suspected of containing glass. It was established that the glass-like material was due to crystallisation during canning, of the white fluid found in shell fish. The remainder of the tins found at the shop were withdrawn from sale.

The Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act 1954 came into operation in November, but some time will elapse before the Government is able to formulate regulations calculated to satisfy all interested persons.

Meat and Food Inspection

During the early part of the year there was much activity in preparation for the decontrol of slaughtering which was to operate from July, 1954. The local butchers were approached to obtain their views and a meeting between the butchers and representatives of the Council was held with the object of ensuring adequate slaughtering facilities in the district. The final outcome resulted in the abattoir passing under the control of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, who offered to cater for local needs, either by slaughtering on behalf of the butcher, or offering meat wholesale from the hook. One or two butchers took advantage of this offer, others bought meat from outside the district.

From the inspection point of view, there is very little change, except that the bulk of the inspected meat is exported outside the urban district and sent as far afield as London, Birmingham and Lowestoft.

Later in the year, three applications were received to re-open old slaughterhouses ; all were refused, and an appeal against the Council's decision was lodged by the owner of one of the premises.

The throughput at the abattoir was not substantially altered by the changeover, and 19,000 animals were admitted for slaughter. The

quality of the meat produced was of a better standard, the number of casualties reduced by one third, and this may be reflected in the figures for 1955. The percentages of animals affected with tuberculosis showed no significant change, and the weight of meat and offal condemned was reduced by a little over two tons.

There were two fewer cases of *Cysticercus Bovis*, fifteen carcasses being despatched to the Northampton cold stores for treatment.

Eighty visits were made to shops, warehouses and stores to inspect various foodstuffs, thirteen cwts. of which was declared unfit for human consumption and destroyed or fed to animals.

The following tables indicate the extent of the work carried out.

UNSOUND FOOD

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	121 tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	423 tins
Baked Beans	...	...	...	...	...	63 tins
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	214 tins
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	63 tins
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	35 tins
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	69 tins
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	19 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	30 tins
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	6 tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	27 tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	32 lbs.
Rabbit	...	...	...	...	...	60 lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	36 lbs.
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	3 jars
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	...	23 jars
Gherkins	...	...	...	...	...	15 jars
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	9 boxes
Table Jelly	...	...	...	...	...	6 dozen packets

The total weight being : 13 cwts. 3 qrs. 0 lbs. 12 oz.

Cysticercus Bovis

<i>No. of animals affected</i>	<i>No. showing head lesions</i>	<i>No. showing heart lesions</i>	<i>No. showing diaphragm lesions</i>	<i>No. affected in other locations</i>
15	15	3	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>

Number of visits to the Abattoir	...	...	...	...	485
Number of casualties admitted	...	...	...	...	1,013

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

January to December, 1954

	Bulls	Cows	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number of animals slaughtered and inspected ...	21	523	1,318	1,081	383	9,320	6,420
TUBERCULOSIS							
1. Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	19	3	2	1	—	—
2. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	4	146	135	88	—	—	131
TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS AFFECTED WITH TUBERCULOSIS ...	5	165	138	90	1	—	131
3. Percentage of animals inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	23.8%	31.5%	10.4%	8.3%	0.26	—	2.0%
4. General incidence Adult Bovine	13.5%						
OTHER DISEASES							
Specific disease other than T.B. causing condemnation of the whole carcase							
Emaciation ...	—	1	—	—	—	21	5
Fever-Acute ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	16
Immaturity ...	—	—	—	—	13	—	—
Gangrene ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Joint Ill ...	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
Mastitis (including septic) ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Moribund ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Peritonitis—septic ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
Pericarditis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—including Gangrene ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Septæcaemia ...	—	3	1	—	—	5	7
Swine Erysipelas—Acute ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Uraemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metritis—Septic ...	—	1	—	—	—	4	1
Johne's Disease ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pyelo-Nephritis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Toxaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS ...	2	7	2	—	24	38	39

Total number of animals slaughtered and inspected ... 19,066
Total number of whole carcasses condemned ... 138

Weight of Meat and Offal Condemned

	TUBERCULOSIS				OTHER DISEASES			
	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcase Meat ...	7	8	2	13	7	0	1	14
Offal ...	5	15	0	27	12	19	2	25
	13	3	3	12	20	0	0	11
TOTAL WEIGHT ...	33 Tons 3 cwts. 3 qr. 23 lbs.							

PART 3.

HOUSING

1954 will be noted as the turning point of post war housing policy. It was considered that the back-log in new building had been made good and the time was ripe to return to the pre-war attack on slum clearance. The Government placed on the statute book the Housing Repairs and Rent Acts 1954 which required local authorities to submit a programme of slum clearance covering the next five years, and the Health Department, having kept a "long list" of properties likely to be included in clearance areas, were able to get down to the task of converting this list into a definite programme.

In addition, five clearance areas, involving twenty-five houses were inspected, all evidence and documents prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, who gave notice of a public enquiry to be held in January, 1955.

The Health Committee made a wise choice in recommending the purchase of one area as a site for eleven bungalows for old people.

The part of the Act dealing with certificates of disrepair did not achieve the result expected. Only one application was received, the certificate was granted and a notice under Section 9 of the principal Act was served on the owner.

The Department's policy of issuing notices for the minimum of work has now been discontinued, and an example of the different outlook can be quoted in a case where a row of twelve houses was completely re-roofed and all necessary repairs carried out.

Two hundred and fifty-six visits were made for the purpose of slum clearance, enforcing repair work, etc. ; thirty-eight houses were made fit after service of informal notices, five houses were demolished and three closed as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

FORM OF RETURN MADE TO MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1954

	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. persons displaced</i>
(1) <i>Demolition and Closing Orders Housing Act 1936</i>		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 	5	8
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	3	4

REPAIRS

Informal Action

(4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts	38
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